WHAT 1S CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A computer implemented method of controlling a physical system responsive to a drive to produce a selected output, the method comprising:
 - defining a virtual identity system which includes the physical system and a form of a model of the physical system stored in a computer;
- broviding a for receiving the drive to the physical system initiated by the computer;
 - receiving provide an actual output from the physical system indicative of a measured physical parameter;
 - checking a quality of identity of the virtual identity system using at least a function of the actual output and and the form of the model stored on the computer; and
 - controlling the physical system <u>using the computer</u> as a function of checking the quality of identity of the virtual identity system.

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